What is claimed is:

1. A method for a servlet of an Application server running on a Web server to provide performance data to a performance tool running on a client computer, where the Web server and the client computer are in communication over a network using a network protocol, said method comprising:

receiving a request for performance data from the performance tool, where the request is transported over the network;

obtaining the performance data as per the request;

formatting the performance data into a data structure; and

providing the data structure to the Web server for transport to the performance tool over the network.

2. A method of claim 1, wherein the data structure is formatted in XML.

3. A method of claim 2, wherein the request is formatted in HTTP.

4. A method of claim 3, wherein the network protocol is TCP/IP.

5. A method of claim 2, wherein the data structure has a tree topology.

6. A computer program comprising computer program code means adapted to perform all of the steps of any of claims 1 to 5 when said program is run on a computer.

7. A computer program as claimed in claim 6 embodied on a computer readable medium.

8. A monitoring system embedded within a computing system for providing performance data to a performance tool running on a client computer, where the computing system and the client computer are in communication over a network using a network protocol, comprising:

a communication system to receive a request for performance data from the performance tool, where the request is transported over the network;

a data collection system to obtain the performance data as per the request; and

a processing system to format the performance data into a data structure;

wherein the data structure is provided to the computing system for transport to the performance tool over the network.

9. A monitoring system of claim 8, wherein the data structure is formatted in XML.

10. A monitoring system of claim 9, wherein the request is formatted in HTTP.

11. A monitoring system of claim 10, wherein the network protocol is TCP/IP.

12. A monitoring system of claim 9, wherein the data structure has a tree topology.

13. An article to provide performance data of a computing system to a performance tool running on a client computer, where the computing system and the client computer are in communication over a network using a network protocol, comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium for the computing system;

means recorded on the medium for the computing system to receive a request for performance data from the performance tool, where the request is transported over the network;

means recorded on the medium to obtain the performance data as per the request;

means recorded on the medium to format the performance data into a data structure; and

means recorded on the medium to provide the data structure to the computing system for transport to the performance tool over the network.

14. An article of claim 13, wherein the data structure is formatted in XML.

15. An article of claim 14, wherein the request is formatted in HTTP.

16. An article of claim 15, wherein the network protocol is TCP/IP.

17. An article of claim 14, wherein the data structure has a tree topology.

18. A method for a performance tool running on a client computer to retrieve

performance data from a servlet of an Application server running on a Web server, where the Web server and the client computer are in communication over a network using a network protocol, said method comprising:

sending a request for performance data to the servlet, where the request is provided to the client computer for transport over the network; and

receiving a data structure containing the performance data transported from the servlet over the network to the client computer.

19. A method of claim 18, wherein the data structure is formatted in XML.

20. A method of claim 19, wherein the request is formatted in HTTP.

21. A method of claim 20, wherein the network protocol is TCP/IP.

22. A method of claim 19, wherein the data structure has a tree topology.

23. A computer program comprising computer program code means adapted to perform all of the steps of one of claims 18 to 22 when said program is run on a computer.

24. A computer program as claimed in claim 23 embodied on a computer readable medium.

25. A performance tool embedded within a client computer which retrieves performance data from a servlet of a computing system, where the computing system and the performance tool are in communication over a network using a network protocol, the improvement comprising:

a processor to provide a request for performance data where the request is sent by the client computer to the computing system over the network; and to receive a data structure containing the performance data where the data structure is transported from the computing system to the client computer over the network.

26. A performance tool of claim 25, wherein the data structure is formatted in XML.

27. A performance tool of claim 26, wherein the request is formatted in HTTP.

28. A performance tool of claim 27, wherein the network protocol is TCP/IP.

29. A performance tool of claim 26, wherein the data structure has a tree topology.

30. An article of a performance tool for running on a client computer to retrieve performance data from a servlet of a computing system, where the computing system and the performance tool are in communication over a network using a network protocol, comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium;

means recorded on the medium for providing a request for performance data to the client computer for transport to the computing system over the network; and

means recorded on the medium for receiving a data structure containing the performance data transported from the computing system to the client computer over the network.

31. An article of claim 30, wherein the data structure is formatted in XML.

32. An article of claim 31, wherein the request is formatted in HTTP.

33. An article of claim 32, wherein the network protocol is TCP/IP.

34. An article of claim 31, wherein the data structure has a tree topology.